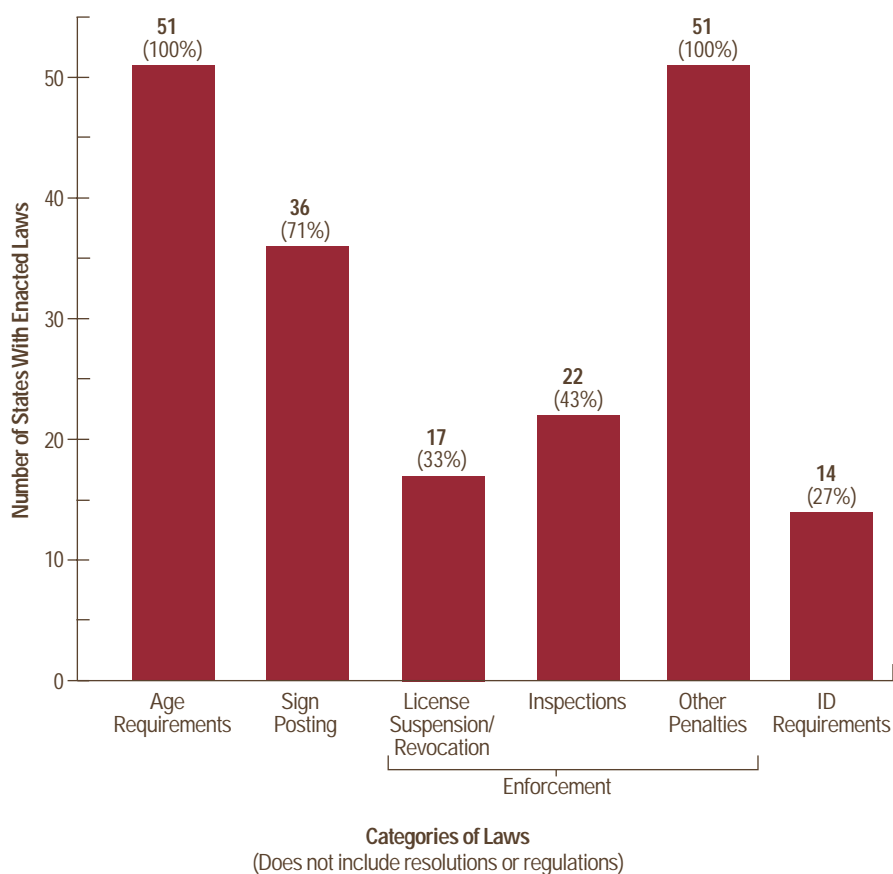


State Cancer  
Legislative  
Database Program

# YOUTH ACCESS TO TOBACCO

FACT SHEET • MARCH 1997

## Number of States With Enacted Youth Access to Tobacco Sale/Purchase/Possession Laws by Category of Law (Through December 1996)



Legislation that restricts the sale of tobacco products to minors, or the purchase or possession of tobacco products by minors, has been enacted in 50 states and the District of Columbia. The majority of states prohibit tobacco sales to persons under age 18, although three states – Alabama, Alaska, and Utah – prohibit sales to persons under 19. In Pennsylvania, the sale of tobacco products to persons under 18 is illegal, as is the sales of cigarettes to persons under 21. Ten states (20%) have enacted legislation that explicitly prohibits or restricts the purchase by adults of tobacco products for minors. A total of 14 states (27%) require retailers to demand identification to

verify a patron's age before selling him or her a tobacco product. Legislation in 36 states (71%) requires that restrictions on tobacco access by minors be displayed on a sign at the point of purchase. A tobacco vendor's license can be suspended or revoked in 17 states (33%) for selling tobacco products to minors. Some type of civil or criminal penalty (such as a fine and/or imprisonment) is levied by all states for violating youth access laws. In addition, the number of states with laws authorizing inspections of establishments selling tobacco products nearly doubled from 12 (24%) in 1994 to 22 (43%) in 1996.

Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program, Bethesda, MD, 1997.

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# States with Enacted Youth Access to Tobacco Sale/Purchase/Possession Laws by Category of Law (Through December 1996)

State	Categories of Legislation	Age Requirements	Sign Posting	Enforcement			ID Requirements
				License Suspension/ Revocation	Inspections	Other Penalties	
Alabama		✓				✓	
Alaska		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Arizona		✓				✓	
Arkansas		✓	✓	✓		✓	
California		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Colorado		✓	✓			✓	
Connecticut		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Delaware		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
District of Columbia		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Florida		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Georgia		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Hawaii		✓	✓			✓	
Idaho		✓				✓	
Illinois		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Indiana		✓	✓			✓	
Iowa		✓				✓	
Kansas		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kentucky		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Louisiana		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Maine		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Maryland		✓				✓	
Massachusetts		✓	✓			✓	
Michigan		✓	✓			✓	
Minnesota		✓				✓	
Mississippi		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Missouri		✓	✓			✓	✓
Montana		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nebraska		✓		✓		✓	
Nevada		✓			✓	✓	
New Hampshire		✓	✓			✓	
New Jersey		✓	✓	✓		✓	
New Mexico		✓	✓		✓	✓	
New York		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
North Carolina		✓			✓	✓	✓
North Dakota		✓				✓	
Ohio		✓	✓			✓	
Oklahoma		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Oregon		✓	✓		✓	✓	
Pennsylvania		✓				✓	
Rhode Island		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
South Carolina		✓			✓	✓	
South Dakota		✓			✓	✓	
Tennessee		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Texas		✓	✓			✓	
Utah		✓			✓	✓	
Vermont		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Virginia		✓	✓			✓	✓
Washington		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
West Virginia		✓			✓	✓	
Wisconsin		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Wyoming		✓	✓			✓	

Source: National Cancer Institute: State Cancer Legislative Database Program. Bethesda, MD, 1997.